The *Federalistas* had advocated ultimate statehood in the American Union, but with the approach of the election in 1907 had to abandon this unpopular plank in their platform. The newly formed groups in favor of immediate independence which soon united to found the *Nacionalista* Party decisively defeated the Federal Party.

The *Federalists* were succeeded by the *Progresistas*, who in turn became the *Democratas.* Each was forced to play the role of opposition to the *Nacionalistas>* who continuously remained the majority. When the split occurred in the ranks of the *Nacionalista* Party in 1922, the *Democratas* were afforded a golden opportunity to ride into power on a popular tide of dissatisfaction, but principally on account of lack of militant leadership, were merely able partially to take advantage of the situation. After the directorate of the *Democrata* Party was inveigled by the reunited *Nacionalista Consolidado* Party into forming a National Supreme Council, the *Democrata* Party abdicated its position as an effective party. In 1933—1934 the *Democrata* Party was dissolved as a national organization; one branch joined the Quezon *Antis* and the other branch the Osmena *Pros.* Then a curious phenomenon occurred: the *Democratas* who, united, met with ignominious defeat, divided, were victorious. The *Democrata Antis* swept the Bicol region to the marked advantage of their newly acquired *Nacionalista Anti* brethren and the *Democrata Pros* helped in carrying Manila, Cebu, and Iloilo for their *Nacionalista Pro* cronies. To cap it all, three former *Demo-*

cratas were handed the principal positions in the Constitutional Convention, those of president, first vice president, and second vice president.

THE NACIONALISTA PARTY

The dominant political party in the Philippines has been the *Nacionalista Consolidado* Party. For nearly thirty years